



YOUNG LINGUISTS—Students at Torrance's three high schools and Casimir Elementary School will soon be using language labs similar to this one to learn foreign languages. Casimir students will learn Spanish, while Spanish, French, German and Russian will be taught by this method at North, South and Torrance High Schools. Here the teacher handles a control panel for the students in individual booths.

Elementary Language Pilot Program to Be Conducted at Casimir School This Year

Casimir Elementary School will start a five-year pilot study of Spanish instruction this fall, while a new twist will be added to foreign language instruction at Torrance's three high schools, according to Assistant Superintendent Albert N. Posner.

Language laboratories—including latest languages—teaching equipment—will be installed in one classroom each at Casimir and at North, South, and Torrance High Schools. Spanish, French, German, and Russian classes at the high schools will be able to use them.

A language lab consists of a booth equipped with earphones to allow the student to hear a tape recording of the foreign language spoken correctly. Some booths also are equipped with microphones and tape recording equipment for the student to record his own voice and compare it with the "expert."

Used by Army

The labs have been used by the Army and foreign service for several years with considerable success in training personnel to serve abroad. Several other school districts also have tried them, although Torrance is one

of the first to use them for an elementary school.

In other places, the labs have helped students learn a foreign language by "audio-lingual" methods. Under terms of Public Law 864, the federal government shared the cost of the installation with the school district. Congress appropriate the money to improve language-teaching techniques.

The Board of Education recently approved a \$17,500 bid from Magnetic Recording Industries for installation of the equipment. Although the labs will not be ready by the Sept. 10 opening of school, they should be ready by the end of the year.

Spanish Course

At Casimir, the elementary language program will involve one class of students in each of the grades from four through eight. With parental approval, youngsters will get about 20 minutes of Spanish instruction per day.

According to figures released by State School Superintendent Roy Simpson, Torrance will have five of the 92 elementary foreign language classes in California next year. Elementary students with a good knowledge of Span-

ish have been picked as instructors for the classes.

Elementary students will make use of the language lab equipment, as will their high school brothers and sisters. The equipment, however, is strictly supplementary to the regular program, officials emphasized.

Cite Benefits

Some of the benefits of the language labs are reported to be:

1. They furnish correct pronunciation models for students to hear and imitate, rather than mispronunciations of classmates. The students can listen, repeat, practice, and compare pronunciation.
2. The labs can be used for whole classes, small groups, or individuals, as needed.
3. Many students who are shy in pronouncing or mispronouncing before a group learn readily in the privacy of individual booths.
4. Many test indicate that learning is more efficient when a language laboratory is used.

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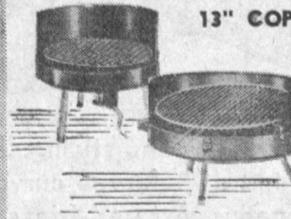
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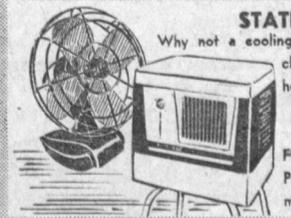
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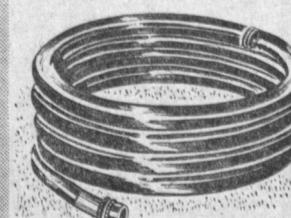
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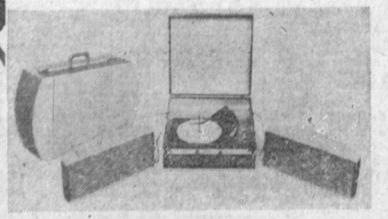
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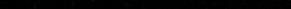
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